

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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-----058194 311842Z /46
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK, US

SUBJECT: APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY IN BHUTTO CASE

REF: STATE 077097

1. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION, FOLLOWING ARE ADDI-
TIONAL APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY IN BHUTTO CASE WHICH HAVE
COME TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION:
A: SEN. JAVITS SENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO PAK AMB DTD MAR 22:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: LIKE MANY OTHERS IN THE
UNITED STATES, I WAS DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH
SENTENCE WHICH HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN AT THE CONCLUSION OF
THE TRIAL OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. WITHOUT ENTER-
ING INTO THE MERITS OF THE CASE, I RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST
THAT THE SEVERITY OF THE SENTENCE WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED
UPON MR. BHUTTO IS LIKELY TO REFLECT ADVERSELY UPON
PAKISTAN'S REPUTATION FOR MODERATION AND RESTRAINT IN THE
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EYES OF PAKISTAN'S FRIENDS IN THE CONGRESS AND THROUGHOUT
THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDINGLY, I WISH TO REQUEST THAT
YOU CONVEY MY PERSONAL CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD TO PRESI-
DENT CHAUDHRY AND GENERAL ZIA TOGETHER WITH MY SUGGESTION
THAT, AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE AT LEAST, THE SENTENCE
AGAINST MR. BHUTTO BE REDUCED OR COMMUTED. IT IS MY BE-
LIEF THAT AN ACT OF MAGNAIMITY IN THE MATTER WOULD BE

EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED IN THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD
OBVIATE THE CONCERNS AND DISQUIET OF SO MANY OF PAKISTAN'S
FRIENDS WHICH HAVE BEEN AROUSED IN THIS MATTER. WITH
BEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, JACOB K. JAVITS. UNQUOTE.

LETTER ALSO HAD HAND WRITTEN NOTE ADDED SAYING "I ATTACH
A COPY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL WHICH EXPRESSES
MY VIEW."

B. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) ISSUED PRESS RELEASE DTD
MAR 20 STATING THAT FOLLOWING CABLE HAS BEEN SENT TO
GENERAL ZIA:

"GRAVELY CONCERNED REPORTED DEATH SENTENCE IMPOSED ON FOR-
MER PRIME MINISTER Z.A. BHUTTO. ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEALS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY TO
IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCE INTENTION TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCE
IMPOSED UPON HIM AND FOUR CO-ACCUSED REGARDLESS OF OUT-
COME APPEALS. AN ACT OF MAGNANIMITY IN THIS CASE WOULD
BE WELCOMED BY ALL THOSE DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR LIFE AND
SAFETY OF MR. BHUTTO. AI OPPOSES THE DEATH PENALTY WITH-
OUT RESERVATION. RESPECTFULLY AND SINCERELY, MARTIN
ENNALS, SECRETARY GENERAL, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL."

PRESS RELEASE ALSO STATED THAT "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY IMPOSED ON MR.
BHUTTO BECAUSE WE REGARD THE DEATH PENALTY TO BE 'CRUEL,
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INHUMAN AND DEGRADING PUNISHMENT' AND BECAUSE WE FEEL
THAT INHERENT IN EVERY TRIAL--AND CERTAINLY A TRIAL, LIKE
MR. BHUTTO'S, CONDUCTED IN A TENSE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE--
THERE IS A RISK OF MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE."

AI POINTED OUT THAT MR. BHUTTO CAN APPEAL IN THE SUPREME
COURT BUT THAT IT IS "DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS
THAT HIS LAWYER WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO MEET HIM IN
KOT LAKHPAT JAIL ON MARCH 18, THE DATE OF HIS CONVICTION."
AI URGED THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY TO ALLOW
MR. BHUTTO UNHINDERED VISIT" OF CLOSE RELATIVES AND HIS
COUNSEL, IN ORDER TO GIVE HIM FULL OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE
HIS APPEAL. COOPER

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